

LEGAL NOTICE
USDA-Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
Sierraville Ranger District, Sierra County
LITTLE TRUCKEE SUMMIT PARKING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
45-DAY OBJECTION PERIOD

Sierraville District Ranger Quentin Youngblood has prepared a draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Little Truckee Summit Parking Improvement Project Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Little Truckee Summit parking and trailhead area is located approximately 8 miles south of Sierraville, California on State Highway 89. Demand for winter parking far exceeds the capacity of the existing parking areas at LTS parking and trailhead area, and the existing configuration of the parking lot does not meet current user needs. In recent instances, more than 100 vehicle/trailer combinations and other vehicles have been observed using the site, which was designed for up to 60 users. On winter weekends, parking at LTS frequently spills onto the shoulder on both sides of State Highway 89, and into unmaintained areas. Parking along State Highway 89 poses public safety concerns, as the route is a heavily-used thoroughfare that is subject to weather extremes and to limited-sight distances given the highway alignment on a ridge top. The project is needed to improve parking lot safety by increasing parking lot capacity to meet current demand by improving and updating facilities at the parking and trailhead area.

Under this decision, the Forest Service will construct a new lot to expand the current parking capacity, repave the existing lot, realign and replace access routes, upgrade and increase restroom and grooming shed facilities, and install a warming hut. The total area affected is approximately 11 acres, of which 5 acres would be temporarily affected and rehabilitated after project construction. The Little Truckee Summit Parking Area Improvement Project Draft Decision Notice/FONSI and the Environmental Assessment are available for review at the Sierraville Ranger District or on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46058>. For additional information, contact Karie Wiltshire at the Sierraville Ranger District at karie.wiltshire@usda.gov; (530) 994-3401.

This draft decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. In accordance with 36 CFR 218.7(b), the EA and this draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the Little Truckee Summit Parking Improvement Project will be made available to those who have requested the documents or are eligible to file an objection in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a). Only those who submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment are eligible to file an objection. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of this legal notice in The Mountain Messenger, the newspaper of record. The date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 218.9).

Objections must be submitted by mail, by hand, or electronically to the reviewing officer: Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest; Attn: LTS Parking Improvement Project Objection; 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959, FAX: (530) 478-6109. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Electronic objections, in acceptable plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc) formats, may be submitted to E-mail: objections-pacificsouthwest-tahoe@fs.fed.us with subject: LTS Parking Improvement Project.

Objections must include the following information (36 CFR 218.8(d)): (1) objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; (2) objector's signature or other verification of authorship; (3) identification of a single lead objector when applicable; (4) project name, responsible official's name and title, and name of affected National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s); (5) a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates, law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; and supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and (6) a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the project and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for public comment. Documents incorporated by reference must adhere to 36 CFR 218.8(b).

For questions or more information about the project, contact Jeff Wiley, OHV Program Manager, at jwiley@fs.fed.us or 530-994-3401 extension 6667. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forest.

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